

Hill, Victor D.

1929

[Dept. of Classical Languages,
Ohio University,
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OHIO UNIVERSITY

ATHENS, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

The American Numismatic Society
W. 156c. Broadway
New York City, New York

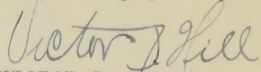
Dear Sirs:

I am writing you as chairman of the Committee on Illustrative Material Connected with Vergil and His Works for the 1930 Bimillennium Vergilianum. We should like, among other things, to have an adequate list of the Vergilian illustrations on Roman coins and metals. Is it possible for the American Numismatic Society to cooperate in any way in securing such information? If not, are there any suggestions you can offer?

We feel that coins offer certain values in illustrative material which are too often ignored, and should like for that reason to feature this as a separate item of the committee's work. Any direct cooperation or any aid you can render will be very much appreciated.

Feb. 7, 1929
VDH:NET

Very truly yours,


VICTOR D. HILL
Chairman Committee on
Illustrative Material

11th February, 1929

Professor Victor D. Hill, Chairman,
Committee on Illustrative Material,
Ohio University, Akron, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Your note of February 7th regarding numismatic material for your Vergil Bimillennial is very interesting to us. We doubtless either have or can secure the loan of the coins needed if we can get some definite statement regarding them. Is it your idea to have the coins mentioned by Vergil exhibited alongside the specific citation? Because I am not deeply versed in the field of Roman coins, I should be very grateful for a more detailed estimate of just what is involved. How many coins do you think would be required? If you could give us the citation in the Loeb translation, that would be a help. We feel that this is too good an opportunity to let go, and we will do anything we can to cooperate with you.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

OHIO UNIVERSITY

ATHENS, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

The American Numismatic Society
Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary
Broadway at 156th Street
New York City, New York

My dear Mr. Noe:

I can reply to your letter only in part at this date. I know there are Roman coins with representations from the Aeneas legends. I think there are also a few old metals with similar representations. How extensive a list of such coins may be, I had really hoped someone connected with your society might be able to say. We are feeling our way, too, as to the use of the information when we get it. We want first of all a list of the coins, probably with some evidence as to their quality and size and the representations that they have. Whether we should think of exhibiting the coins, or having them photographed, is a matter that had better wait decision until our facts are more definite.

I have written a classical scholar who, I hope, will be in a position to take the lead in this particular field. If he does, it will not be long until we can have something more to go on. I have also written Europe to learn whether anything of this sort is being undertaken over there in connection with the Vergilian celebration. You probably are aware that the Italian government has been making preparations for several years looking forward to the Bimillennium Vergilianum, and that several countries are cooperating.

I find it difficult to see how I could offer any citations in the Loeb translation which would make it easier for you to cooperate. A list of such coins must, I think, be collected either by a man who knows coins and knows his Vergil, or by a man who knows his Vergil and has available representations of all the Roman coins. For example, it was prophesied to Aeneas that he would know he had reached his journey's end by the discovery of a white sow with pigs. We have a representation on at least one size of Roman coin of Aeneas disembarking from his ship and seeing the fulfillment of the prophecy. Almost any other scene in the Aeneas legends might be represented on coins or metals in the same way.

I very much appreciate the cordial attitude you have shown, and you shall hear from me further when more progress has been made. In the meantime if you should come upon any way to help our plans along, we should be grateful if you would let us know.

My address, by the way, is Athens, Ohio, not Akron.

Very truly yours,

Victor D. Hill

VICTOR D. HILL

Feb. 21, 1929
VDH:NET

OHIO UNIVERSITY

ATHENS, OHIO

January 15, 1931

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary
The American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th Street
New York City, New York

My dear Mr. Noe:

I am writing to ask your help in a matter of information. There is quite a possibility that we shall desire to have electrotypes reproductions made of perhaps a thousand coins, and I should like to know the name of one or two firms which might do this well and at a reasonable price. If you can aid us in this information, it will be very much appreciated.

I wondered, too, if you could tell me easily where the principle collections of coins are in this country which include ancient and modern foreign coins as well as American, whether in originals or electrotypes. Some considerations have arisen which would make this information of much value to us.

Very truly yours,

Victor D. Hill
VICTOR D. HILL

VDH/t

Boston — Art Mus. ; Fogg Mus. ; Histor. Soc.
New York — Metropolit. ; A. N. S.
New Haven — Yale
Philadelphia — Univ. of Penn. ; Num. & Antiq. Soc.
Baltimore — Johns Hopkins
Washington — Smithsonian
Chicago — Field

January 19, 1931

Victor D. Hill, Esq.

Ohio University

Athens, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Your letter of January 15th is at hand. Some time ago we had a large collection of ~~an~~ electro-type offered to us through the agency of Spink & Son, Ltd., 5 King Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1, England. These had been made by the official electro-typer for the British Museum through a period of years. The collection was offered as a whole, and as I believe it has not been sold, it is possible that they might consider naming a price for a portion of it. I would suggest your writing to Messrs. Spink for further information.

It seems to me that such a valued teaching collection might be acquired by a number of Universities acting in concert. Should your response from Spink lead you to contemplate taking such a course, it is possible that I might be able to make further suggestions that might be useful.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

OHIO UNIVERSITY

ATHENS, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

January 24, 1931

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary
American Numismatic Society
Broadway and 156th Street
New York City, New York

My dear Mr. Noe:

I appreciate very much your cordial reply to my inquiry. You have not, however, given me quite the information I wish to have, and I am venturing to trouble you again. I had known of the collection of electrotypes of which you speak, and my inquiry was in part prompted by that fact. But what I really desired to find out was whether there are any coin collections of any consequence anywhere in this country, and, if so, where. Naturally my interests turn toward coin collections which include ancient Greek and Roman coins, but I shall be interested also to know of collections of any consequence which include foreign coins of any kind.

If you can aid me in any way in securing that information, I shall appreciate it very much.

Very truly yours,

Victor D. Hill
VICTOR D. HILL

VDH/t

January 26, 1931

Victor D. Hill, Esq.
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Responding to your letter of the 24th, there are collections of Greek and Roman coins in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, our own Museum, the Smithsonian Institute (the mint formerly at Philadelphia), and the Pennsylvania University Museum; small collections are in a number of colleges and universities such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Cornell and Miami. The difficulty with these collections however, is that few if any would be willing to have electro-types made of their coins if you could find some one prepared to do it in this country. Furthermore, making a collection of anything except the Greek coins would involve a very considerable expense, and this, I assume, you wish to avoid. The only collections featuring non-classical coins are those of our own Society and that of the mint collection at Washington, although the Chase National Bank displays a very considerable selection of interesting pieces, and I believe the Yale collection is stronger in more modern coins than in ancient ones.

I hope this will give you the information you desire. If it does not, won't you please write once more.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.